P-27/55

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Farm Population

Series P-27, No. 55

Farm Population of the United States: 1981

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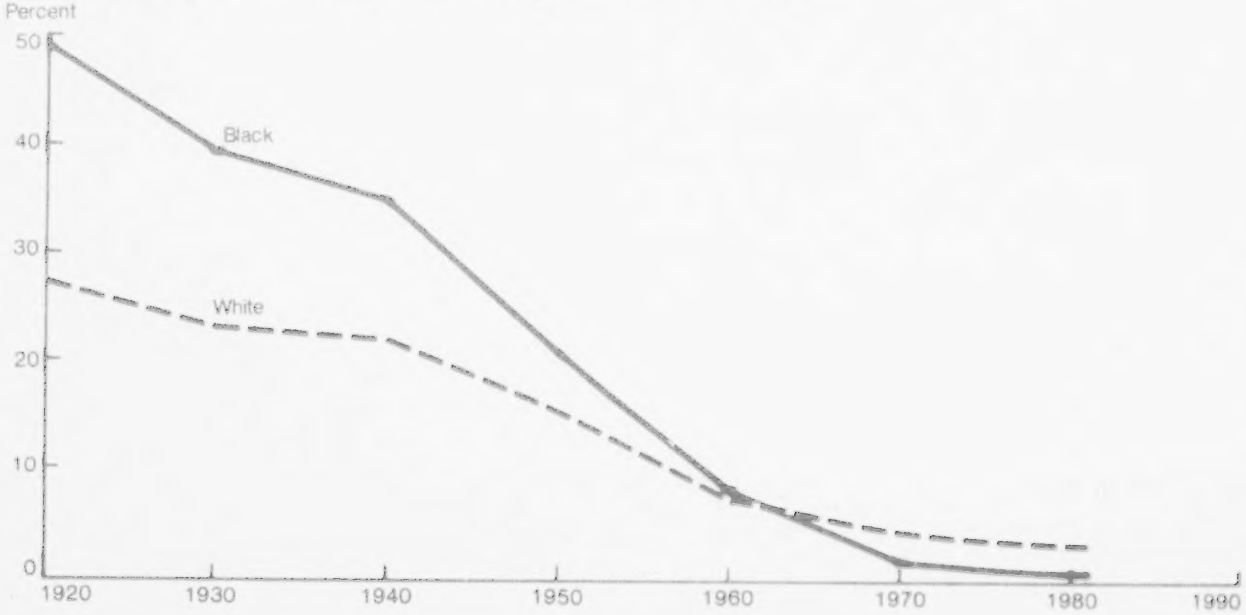
Figure 1

Percent of Population Living on Farms by Race: 1920 to 1981



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Series P-27, No. 55
Issued November 1982

Farm Population of the United States: 1981

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SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

– Represents zero or rounds to zero.

B Base less than 75,000.

NA Not available.

X Not applicable.

Farm Population of the United States: 1981

(These estimates are based on the monthly Current Population Survey and do not reflect the results of the 1980 census.)

INTRODUCTION

The number of persons living on farms in rural areas of the United States averaged 5,790,000 for the 12-month period centered on April 1981. About 1 person out of every 40, or 2.6 percent of the Nation's total population, had a farm residence (table A). These estimates were prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The farm population estimates for 1981 are based on the farm definition that was introduced into this data series in 1978. Under this definition, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places which had, or normally would have had, sales of agricultural products of $1,000 or more during the reporting year.

Under the current definition as well as under previous definitions, the farm share of the total U.S. population continued its long-term downward trend. In 1920, when the farm population was first identified separately, 30.2 percent of the Nation's resident population lived on farms. By 1950, this proportion had fallen to 15.3 percent, and by 1981, it had dropped to 2.6 percent (3.2 percent under the previous definition).

The 1981 estimate of the farm population is about 260,000 lower than that of 6,051,000 for 1980, but this apparent decline is not statistically significant. The chances are about 1 out of 17 that a decline of this magnitude would have been obtained from the sample without any actual change having occurred in the farm population between 1980 and 1981. Although the single-year change between 1980 and 1981 is not statistically significant, the indicated loss of 451,000 farm residents during the 2-year period from 1979 to 1981 does represent a statistically significant decline.

Table A. Total and Farm Population of the United States: 1920 to 1981

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total resident population[1]	Farm population	
		Number of persons[2]	Percent of total population
CURRENT FARM DEFINITION			
1981	224,064	5,790	2.6
1980	221,672	6,051	2.7
1979	219,611	6,241	2.8
1978	217,771	6,501	3.0
PREVIOUS FARM DEFINITION			
1981	224,064	6,942	3.1
1980	221,672	7,241	3.3
1979	219,611	7,553	3.4
1978	217,771	8,005	3.7
1977	215,966	7,806	3.6
1976	214,282	8,253	3.9
1975	212,542	8,864	4.2
1970	203,235	9,712	4.8
1960	179,323	15,635	8.7
1950	150,697	23,048	15.3
1940	131,669	30,547	23.2
1930	122,775	30,529	24.9
1920	105,711	31,974	30.2

[1]Official census counts, except 1975-81, which are estimates.

[2]Farm population estimates for 1920 to 1970 from Farm Population Estimates, 1910-70, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Bulletin No. 523, July 1973; five-quarter averages centered on April beginning 1960. See appendix A.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FARM POPULATION

Distribution. Forty-seven percent of the farm population lived in the North Central Region of the United States in 1981 (table B). The South, which until 1965 had the largest share of farm population, ranked second in 1981 with 34 percent.[1] The West and Northeast regions contained just 13 and 6 percent of all farm residents, respectively.

Most farm residents lived in nonmetropolitan territory in 1981; just 16 percent of the total lived within the boundaries of standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs) as defined

[1]Banks, Vera J. and Calvin L. Beale, Farm Population Estimates, 1910-70, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Bulletin No. 523, July 1973.

Table B. Regional Distribution of the Farm Population: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April)

Region	Number	Percent
Total	5,790	100.0
Northeast	356	6.1
North Central	2,717	46.9
South	1,959	33.8
West	758	13.1

in 1970 (table 7). In comparison, about 69 percent of nonfarm residents lived in SMSA's. Metropolitan farm residents were primarily concentrated in the smaller SMSA's. About three-fourths of metropolitan farm residents lived in rural parts of SMSA's of less than 1 million inhabitants.

Race and Spanish origin. In 1981, Whites constituted 95 percent of all farm residents, a proportion that was significantly higher than the 86 percent White among nonfarm residents (table C). There were 222,000 Blacks on farms in 1981, which represents 3.8 percent of the total farm population. Blacks accounted for 12.0 percent of the nonfarm population. Only 111,000, or 1.9 percent of farm residents were of Spanish origin, whereas in the nonfarm population persons of Spanish origin accounted for 6.3 percent of the total.

Black farm residents have experienced higher rates of decline than Whites over the period for which statistics have been collected. Nearly one-half of the total Black population lived on farms in 1920, compared with just over one-fourth of the total White population (figure 1 and table 1). These proportions had fallen to 21 and 15 percent, respectively, by mid-century, and by 1981, they had dropped to just 1 and 3 percent, respectively. Based on the previous farm definition, the number of Black farm residents declined by 67 percent from 1970 to 1981, while the number of White farm residents fell by 25 percent.

Factors related to the disproportionate drop in the Black farm population include the marginal economic situation of this group, the older age structure of Black farm operators, and the smaller acreage and sales of Black operated farms.[2] These conclusions are based on data from the 1978 Census of Agriculture and relate to farm operators rather than to the farm resident population.[3] However, income data for farm resident families from the Current Population Survey (CPS) yield a similar picture. The 1978 median income of Black farm families was about two-fifths that of White farm families (table 14), and the proportion of Black farm residents in poverty is currently about double that for White farm residents (table 13).

[2] See also U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, *The Decline of Black Farming in America* (Washington, D.C.: 1982).

Table C. Farm and Nonfarm Population, by Race and Spanish Origin: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April)

Race	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Percent distribution		
				Total	Farm	Nonfarm
All races	[1]219,583	5,790	213,793	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	189,056	5,486	183,571	86.1	94.7	85.9
Black	25,930	222	25,708	11.8	3.8	12.0
Spanish origin[2]	13,539	111	13,428	6.2	1.9	6.3

[1] The total U.S. population figure hear differs from that shown in table A because the latter refers to the total resident population, whereas this and other tables refer only to the civilian noninstitutional population.
[2] Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

[3] Age of operator and acreage and value of products sold were reported by race of operator in the 1978 Census of Agriculture, Volume 1. Summary data from this source are as follows:

Age, acres, and sales	Operators	
	Black and other races	White
Percent of operators—		
Under 35 years of age	10.0	16.4
35 to 54 years	37.8	43.8
55 to 64 years	27.1	23.6
65 years and over	25.1	16.2
Percent of operators with farms—		
Under 50 acres	56.5	26.9
50 to 139 acres	24.6	24.7
140 to 219 acres	7.8	13.6
220 acres or more	11.1	34.7
Percent of operators with agricultural sales—		
Under $20,000	85.6	63.3
$20,000 to $99,000	10.9	27.6
$100,000 or more	3.5	9.2

Age and sex. The farm population had an older age structure and thus a higher median age than the nonfarm population. In 1981, the median age of farm residents was about 36 years as compared with 30 years for the nonfarm population (table 3). The farm population had about the same proportion of children and teenagers as the nonfarm population, a lower proportion of young adults (20 to 34 years), and higher proportions of persons 35 to 64 years old and elderly persons.

Traditionally, the farm population was a young population, with high proportions of young adults and children. In 1920, 70 percent of farm residents were under 35 years of age compared to 64 percent of nonfarm residents. By 1960, however, these proportions were 55 percent and 61 percent, respectively. This change results in part from the heavy outmigration of young adults from farms during the 1940's and 1950's. In 1981, 49 percent of farm residents were under age 35 compared to 58 percent of nonfarm residents.

There were 107 males 20 years old and over on farms for every 100 females in 1981, considerably higher than the 88 males per 100 females 20 years old and over found in the nonfarm population. The lower representation of females in the farm population, in comparison to the nonfarm population, is most pronounced among young adults in their early twenties and again after age 65 when women have the highest probability of being single or widowed. This probably reflects a tendency toward increased outmigration of young

farm women as they reach maturity, and outmigration or cessation of farming activities upon the loss of a spouse for older farm women.

Marital status. Farm residents are more likely to be married and living with a spouse than are nonfarm residents. In 1981, 72 percent of farm women 15 years of age and older were married and living with their husbands, compared with 54 percent of nonfarm women (figure 2 and table 4). Among men 15 and over, 67 percent of those living on farms and 60 percent of those living in nonfarm areas were married with wife present.

A greater likelihood of being married was characteristic of all but the youngest age category of farm women. Those 15 to 24 years old were just as likely to be married as their nonfarm counterparts (table 5). At older ages, however, the proportion married and living with a spouse was significantly higher for farm women. At ages 65 and over, for example, 61 percent of farm women were married with husband present, compared with only 37 percent of nonfarm women. The proportions of farm and nonfarm men who were married with wife present were not significantly different until after age 45. Among the older age categories, there was some evidence that farm men were more likely to be married than nonfarm men.

Size of family and presence of children. In 1981, the average size of farm and nonfarm families was approximately 3.3 persons (table 6). Although the average family size was not significantly different, farm families with children tended to have more children than corresponding nonfarm families. Among families with own children under 18 present, 28 percent of farm families had three or more children, compared with 22 percent of nonfarm families. This difference is not reflected in the average family size estimates because of the offsetting effect of the smaller proportion of farm families with own children under 18 present: 43 percent of farm families had own children under 18, compared with 52 percent of nonfarm families.

Fertility. The fertility of farm women continued to be higher than that of nonfarm women (table D). Data for June 1980 indicate that the average number of children born to

Table D. Fertility Characteristics of Farm and Nonfarm Women: June 1980

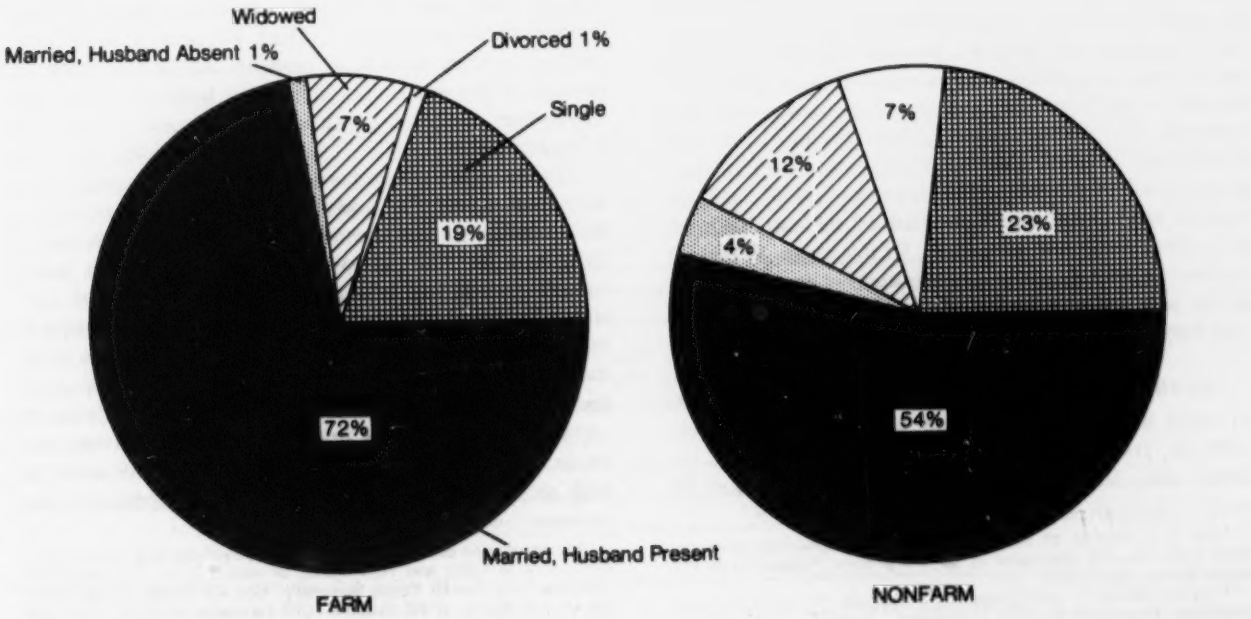
Characteristic	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WOMEN			
Total, 18 to 44 years	1,506	1,813	1,498
18 to 24 years	446	382	447
25 to 29 years	1,177	1,485	1,170
30 to 34 years	1,826	2,103	1,820
35 to 39 years	2,457	2,796	2,446
40 to 44 years	2,988	3,193	2,981
WOMEN 18 TO 34 YEARS[1]			
Births to date per 1,000 women	1,127	1,217	1,125
Future births expected per 1,000 women	932	1,080	929
Lifetime births expected per 1,000 women	2,059	2,297	2,054

[1]Data limited to women reporting on birth expectations.

Source: June 1980 Current Population Survey. Based on previous farm definition; see appendix A.

Figure 2

Marital Status of Farm and Nonfarm Females: March 1981*



* Females, 15 years old and over.

farm women 18 to 44 years of age (1,813 per 1,000 women) was significantly higher than the average born to nonfarm women of comparable age (1,498 per 1,000 women).

There was some evidence that total lifetime expected births were also higher for farm than nonfarm women. The average number of lifetime births expected by farm women 18 to 34 years of age was 2,297 per 1,000 women, compared with an expected 2,054 per 1,000 nonfarm women.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FARM POPULATION

Labor force participation. For the five quarters centered on April 1981, an average of 3.0 million (64 percent) of all farm residents 14 years old and over were in the labor force, either employed or seeking work (table E). The labor force participation rate for farm residents was slightly higher than the rate (62 percent) for nonfarm residents. The higher likelihood of being in the labor force pertained only to farm men. Although the labor force participation rate of farm women has increased from 30 to 47 percent between 1960 and 1981, the level is below that of nonfarm women (51 percent).[4]

Persons living on farms in the combined Northern and Western States were more likely to be in the labor force than were Southern farm residents. (This regional pattern also exists in the nonfarm population.) In 1981, 66 percent of all persons 14 years old and over living on farms in the North and West were either working or looking for work. In comparison, persons on Southern farms had a labor force participation rate of 60 percent (table 8).

Unemployment. The rate of unemployment—the proportion of the civilian labor force currently without a job and looking for work—was relatively low in the farm population. About 3 percent of the labor force living on farms in 1981 was unemployed; the comparable rate in the nonfarm population was 8 percent (table E). The high incidence of holding two or more jobs among persons employed in agriculture is thought to contribute to lower unemployment among farm residents. For example, when a farm operator with dual employment loses his nonfarm job, that person is still counted as employed on the basis of farm work. In 1980, 835,000 multiple job holders, about one-sixth of the national total, had at least one job in agriculture. Of this group, 63 percent combined a primary job as a nonagricultural wage and salary worker with self-employment in agriculture—mainly on their own farms—as a secondary job.[5]

The 1981 rates of unemployment for Blacks and Whites on farms were 11.4 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively (table 9). The comparable nonfarm rates (not shown in the tables) were 15.3 percent for Blacks and 6.6 percent for Whites. Because of sampling variability, the Black rates of unemployment by residence were not significantly different, whereas the rate for Whites was lower for farm residents.

Table E. Employment Status of the Farm and Nonfarm Population 14 Years Old and Over, by Sex: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April)

Sex and employment status	Farm	Nonfarm
Both sexes	4,674	168,643
In labor force	3,008	104,558
Percent of total	64.4	62.0
Employed	2,924	96,515
Unemployed	84	8,043
Percent of labor force	2.8	7.7
Not in labor force	1,666	64,085
Male	2,422	79,867
In labor force	1,955	59,454
Percent of total	80.7	74.4
Employed	1,917	55,005
Unemployed	38	4,449
Percent of labor force	1.9	7.5
Not in labor force	467	20,413
Female	2,252	88,776
In labor force	1,053	45,103
Percent of total	46.8	50.8
Employed	1,007	41,510
Unemployed	46	3,593
Percent of labor force	4.4	8.0
Not in labor force	1,199	43,672

Agricultural and nonagricultural employment. The total number of persons employed solely, or primarily in the case of multiple jobholders, in agriculture averaged 3,498,000 in 1981 (table F). Although farm residents are more likely to be employed in agriculture than in nonagricultural industries, they do not represent the larger share of total agricultural employment. In 1930, 87 percent of all agricultural workers were farm residents. As late as 1970, 63 percent of the agricultural work-force lived on farms.[6] By 1981, farm residents constituted 47 percent of all agricultural workers.

The decline in the proportion of agricultural workers who were farm residents is largely due to the general trend among farm wage workers to commute from nonfarm residences to farm jobs. In 1981, about 8 out of 10 wage and salary agricultural workers, who represent 44 percent of all agricultural workers, did not reside on farms. Another factor is that agricultural employment as a category includes more than farmers and farm laborers. These two occupations dominate the industry, but persons working on farms in occupations such as truck driver, bookkeeper, and mechanic are also included. Additionally, persons employed in activities such as veterinary services, kennels, and landscaping are

[4] See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-27, No. 29, *Estimates of the Rural-Farm Population of the United States: April 1960.*

[5] Taylor, Daniel E. and Edward S. Sekscenik. "Workers on Long Schedules, Single and Multiple Jobholders," *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 105, No. 5 pp.47-56. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor. May 1982.

[6] According to census reports, the number of workers employed in agriculture in 1930 was 10,482,323, of whom 9,141,362 were farm residents. See United States Summary, Vol. III, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930.* Based on CPS estimates, in 1970, 2,333,000 of the total 3,696,000 agricultural workers lived on farms. See Current Population Reports, Series P-27, No. 42, *Farm Population of the United States: 1970.*

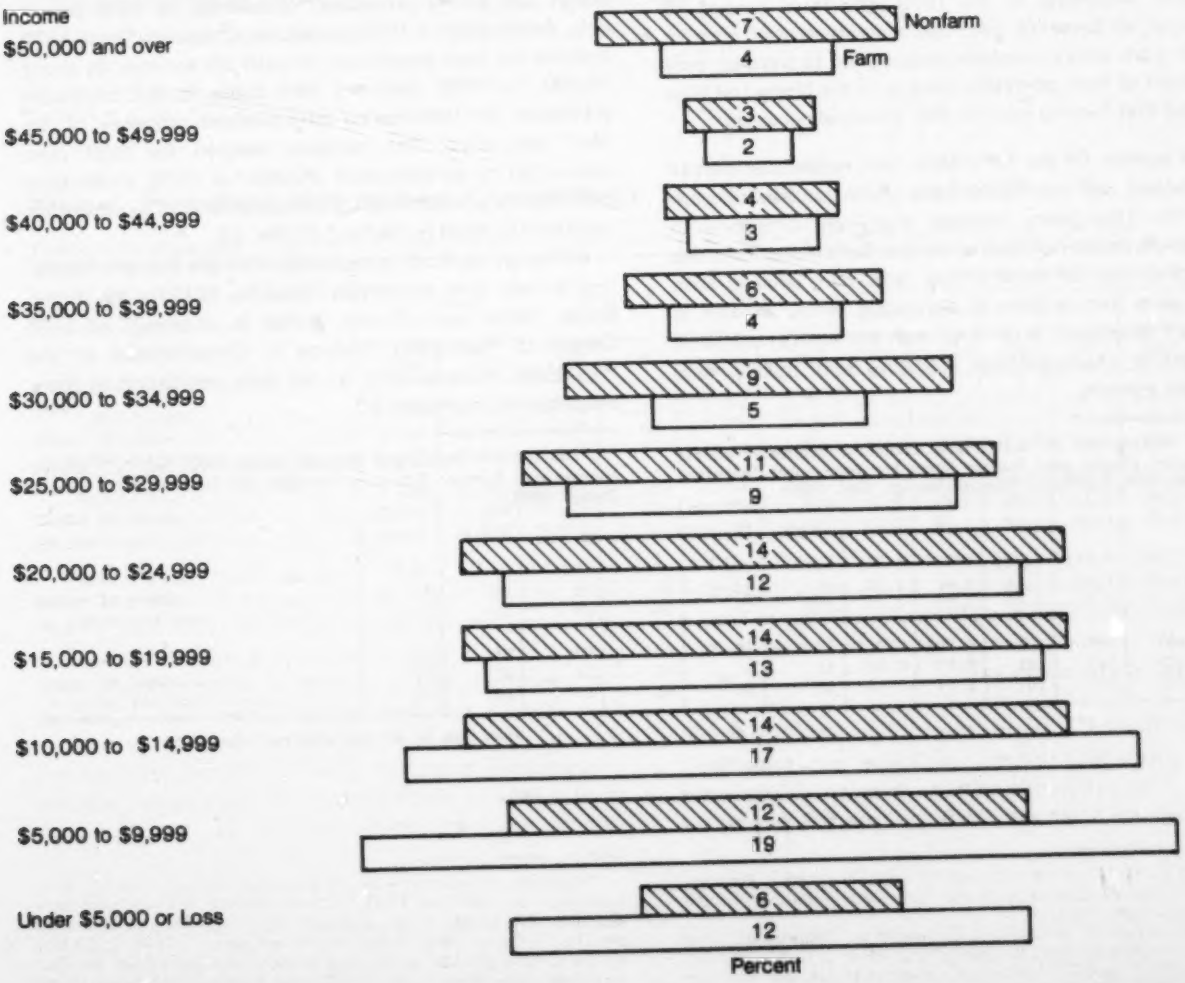
Table F. Farm and Nonfarm Residents 14 Years Old and Over Employed in Agriculture, by Class of Worker and Sex: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April)

Class of worker	Both sexes	Male	Female	Percent distribution		
				Both sexes	Male	Female
Total agricultural workers	3,498	2,802	696	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,633	1,442	191	46.7	51.5	27.4
Wage and salary workers	1,547	1,237	310	44.2	44.1	44.5
Unpaid family workers	317	122	195	9.1	4.4	28.0
Farm resident agricultural workers	1,628	1,285	342	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,037	909	128	63.7	70.7	37.4
Wage and salary workers	338	283	55	20.8	22.0	16.1
Unpaid family workers	252	93	159	15.5	7.2	46.5
Nonfarm resident agricultural workers	1,870	1,517	353	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	596	533	63	31.9	35.1	17.8
Wage and salary workers	1,209	955	255	64.7	63.0	72.2
Unpaid family workers	65	29	36	3.5	1.9	10.2

Figure 3

Income Distribution of Farm and Nonfarm Families: 1980



classified as agricultural workers. Many of these peripheral agricultural activities are often performed in nonfarm settings.

In 1981, employed farm residents were more likely to be working in agriculture than in nonagricultural industries (table 8). This was true only for farm men however. Two-thirds of all employed farm women had nonagricultural jobs whereas only about one-third of the farm men were engaged in nonfarm work. The high representation of farm females in nonagricultural employment reflects, at least in part, the importance of supplemental nonfarm income to farm families. Data on income of farm operator families by major source of income reveal that, in 1980, 62 percent of their total income came from nonfarm sources.[7] Female farm residents working in nonagricultural industries were more likely to be in service industries; the leading nonfarm industry for farm men was manufacturing (table 11).

Employment of farm residents in nonagricultural industries was more pronounced in the South than in the rest of the country (table 8). In 1981, 52 percent of the Southern farm resident labor force worked in nonfarm jobs; outside the South, the proportion was 39 percent. This regional disparity is also reflected by principal occupation of farm operators. According to the 1978 agricultural census, 56 percent of all Southern farm operators spent half or more of their work time at nonfarm occupations. In contrast, only 40 percent of farm operators residing in the North and West indicated that farming was not their principal occupation.

Class of worker. Of the 1.6 million farm residents employed in agriculture, self employment was the major class of work (table 10). There were, however, significant differences in the class of worker distribution by sex. Self employment was the leading class of work among farm men, whereas farm women were just as likely to be unpaid family workers as to be self employed. Both farm men and women primarily employed in nonagricultural industries were mainly wage and salary workers.

[7] U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector: Income and Balance Sheet Statistics, 1980,* Statistical Bulletin No. 674, Economic Research Service, Sept. 1981.

Income. The median income of farm families continues to lag behind that of nonfarm families. In 1980, the median income of farm and nonfarm families was $15,755 and $21,151, respectively (table 13). As illustrated in figure 3, farm families had a relatively large concentration in the lower income intervals.

Real income declined between 1979 and 1980 for families in all but a few segments of our society.[8] Farm resident families suffered a particularly large decline. In real terms, the median income for farm families dropped by 14.8 percent from 1979 to 1980. The median for nonfarm families also declined but only by 5.3 percent (table 14).

RELATED REPORTS

Comparable figures for 1980 appear in Current Population Reports, *Farm Population of the United States: 1980,* Series P-27, No. 54, and earlier reports were published annually beginning in 1961.

Beginning with 1972, the data are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years because of adjustments in sample design and survey procedures occasioned by 1970 census data. Application of 1972 procedures to data for March 1970 lowered the farm population 14 years old and over by about 75,000. In 1976, revisions were made in the processing procedure for determining farm-nonfarm residence of the rural population. The revisions lowered the total farm population by an estimated 130,000. In 1978, a new farm definition was introduced into the data series. The effects are examined in detail in Series P-27, No. 52.

Although not fully comparable with the Current Population Survey, farm population figures for 1970 for the United States, States, and counties appear in chapter C of 1970 Census of Population, Volume 1, *Characteristics of the Population;* characteristics of the farm population by State are presented in chapter D.

[8] See Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 127, *Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1980.*

Table 1. Total and Farm Population, by Race: 1920 to 1981

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	White			Black		
		Farm population			Farm population	
	Total population	Number of persons	Percent of total	Total population	Number of persons	Percent of total
CURRENT FARM DEFINITION						
1981	189,056	5,486	2.9	25,930	222	0.9
1980	187,633	5,714	3.0	25,502	242	0.9
1979	186,080	5,891	3.2	25,104	280	1.1
1978	184,806	6,064	3.3	24,757	349	1.4
PREVIOUS FARM DEFINITION						
1981	189,056	6,564	3.5	25,930	278	1.1
1980	187,633	6,828	3.6	25,502	299	1.2
1979	186,080	7,111	3.8	25,104	360	1.4
1978	184,806	7,482	4.0	24,757	416	1.7
1970	174,641	8,775	5.0	23,972	849	3.5
1960	158,832	11,852	7.5	18,872	1,482	7.9
1950[1]	134,942	19,715	14.6	15,042	3,167	21.1
1940[1]	118,215	25,463	21.5	12,866	4,502	35.0
1930[1]	110,287	25,226	22.9	11,891	4,681	39.4
1920[1]	94,821	26,073	27.5	10,463	5,100	48.7

[1]Conterminous United States.

Source: Current Population Survey for 1970 and later years; Census of Population: 1930-60 for 1960 and earlier years.

Table 2. Farm Population, by Race, Spanish Origin, Age, and Sex: 1981 and 1978

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Race and age	Both sexes		Male		Female		Percent distribution					
							Both sexes		Male		Female	
	1981	1978	1981	1978	1981	1978	1981	1978	1981	1978	1981	1978
All races	5,790	6,501	2,999	3,396	2,791	3,105	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 14 years	1,116	1,315	577	681	538	634	19.3	20.2	19.2	20.1	19.3	20.4
14 years and over	4,674	5,186	2,422	2,715	2,252	2,472	80.7	79.8	80.8	79.9	80.7	79.6
White	5,486	6,064	2,843	3,165	2,644	2,899	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 14 years	1,044	1,198	539	624	504	574	19.0	19.8	19.0	19.7	19.1	19.8
14 years and over	4,442	4,866	2,303	2,541	2,139	2,325	81.0	80.2	81.0	80.3	80.9	80.2
Black	222	349	188	186	105	163	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 14 years	50	98	28	46	22	52	22.5	28.1	23.7	24.7	21.0	31.9
14 years and over	172	252	90	140	82	112	77.5	72.2	76.3	75.3	78.1	68.1
Spanish origin[1]	111	90	60	53	51	37	100.0	100.0	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Under 14 years	37	26	17	15	20	11	33.3	28.9	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
14 years and over	74	64	43	38	31	26	66.7	71.1	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)

[1]Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

Table 3. Farm and Nonfarm Population, by Age and Sex: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Age	Both sexes	Male	Female	Percent distribution		
				Both sexes	Male	Female
FARM						
All ages	5,790	2,999	2,791	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 14 years	1,116	577	538	19.3	19.2	19.3
14 to 19 years	705	373	332	12.2	12.4	11.9
20 to 24 years	415	232	183	7.2	7.7	6.6
25 to 29 years	302	163	139	5.2	5.4	5.0
30 to 34 years	303	156	146	5.2	5.2	5.2
35 to 39 years	346	163	183	6.0	5.4	6.6
40 to 44 years	348	177	171	6.0	5.9	6.1
45 to 49 years	361	173	188	6.2	5.8	6.7
50 to 54 years	406	205	202	7.0	6.8	7.2
55 to 59 years	387	201	186	6.7	6.7	6.7
60 to 64 years	371	198	173	6.4	6.6	6.2
65 years and over	731	381	349	12.6	12.7	12.5
Median age....years	35.7	34.9	36.5	(X)	(X)	(X)
NONFARM						
All ages	213,793	102,922	110,871	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 14 years	45,151	23,055	22,096	21.1	22.4	19.9
14 to 19 years	22,617	11,321	11,297	10.6	11.0	10.2
20 to 24 years	19,645	9,474	10,170	9.2	9.2	9.2
25 to 29 years	18,382	8,924	9,458	8.6	8.7	8.5
30 to 34 years	17,246	8,377	8,870	8.1	8.1	8.0
35 to 39 years	13,692	6,593	7,099	6.4	6.4	6.4
40 to 44 years	11,440	5,497	5,943	5.4	5.3	5.4
45 to 49 years	10,573	5,129	5,445	4.9	5.0	4.9
50 to 54 years	11,097	5,354	5,743	5.2	5.2	5.2
55 to 59 years	10,899	5,170	5,729	5.1	5.0	5.2
60 to 64 years	9,503	4,423	5,081	4.4	4.3	4.6
65 years and over	23,548	9,606	13,942	11.0	9.3	12.6
Median age....years	30.3	29.3	31.4	(X)	(X)	(X)

Table 4. Farm and Nonfarm Population, by Marital Status and Sex: March 1981

(Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Sex and marital status	Total			White			Black		
	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Female, 15 years old and over	91,133	2,158	88,975	78,766	2,032	76,734	10,317	94	10,223
Single	20,533	405	20,128	16,538	358	16,180	3,479	35	3,444
Married, husband present	49,896	1,545	48,351	45,360	1,487	43,873	3,383	40	3,343
Married, husband absent	3,413	23	3,390	2,147	16	2,131	1,171	6	1,165
Separated	2,683	13	2,670	1,596	7	1,589	1,046	6	1,040
Other	730	10	720	552	10	542	125	-	125
Widowed	10,845	159	10,686	9,372	147	9,225	1,307	11	1,296
Divorced	6,447	26	6,421	5,351	25	5,326	976	1	975
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	22.5	18.8	22.6	21.0	17.6	21.1	33.7	37.2	33.7
Married, husband present	54.8	71.6	54.3	57.6	73.2	57.2	32.8	42.6	32.7
Married, husband absent	3.7	1.1	3.8	2.7	0.8	2.8	11.4	6.4	11.4
Separated	2.9	0.6	3.0	2.0	0.3	2.1	10.1	6.4	10.2
Other	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.7	1.2	-	1.2
Widowed	11.9	7.4	12.0	11.9	7.2	12.0	12.7	11.7	12.7
Divorced	7.1	1.2	7.2	6.8	1.2	6.9	9.5	1.1	9.5
Male, 15 years old and over	82,948	2,319	80,629	72,450	2,176	70,274	8,448	110	8,338
Single	24,424	640	23,784	20,170	568	19,602	3,461	58	3,403
Married, wife present	49,896	1,545	48,351	45,337	1,485	43,852	3,470	42	3,428
Married, wife absent	2,287	28	2,259	1,606	23	1,583	592	5	587
Separated	1,557	13	1,544	1,036	10	1,026	492	3	489
Other	730	15	715	570	13	557	98	1	97
Widowed	1,949	40	1,909	1,608	38	1,570	308	1	307
Divorced	4,393	67	4,326	3,728	61	3,667	617	4	613
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	29.4	27.6	29.5	27.8	26.1	27.9	41.0	52.7	40.8
Married, wife present	60.2	66.6	60.0	62.6	68.2	62.4	41.1	38.2	41.1
Married, wife absent	2.8	1.2	2.8	2.2	1.1	2.3	7.0	4.5	7.0
Separated	1.9	0.6	1.9	1.4	0.5	1.5	5.8	2.7	5.9
Other	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.9	1.2
Widowed	2.3	1.7	2.4	2.2	1.7	2.2	3.6	0.9	3.7
Divorced	5.3	2.9	5.4	5.1	2.8	5.2	7.3	3.6	7.4

Source: March 1981 Current Population Survey. Based on 1980 census population controls; see appendix B.

Table 5. Farm and Nonfarm Population, by Marital Status, Age, and Sex: March 1981

(Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Age and marital status	Female				Male			
	Farm		Nonfarm		Farm		Nonfarm	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
15 to 24 years	429	100.0	20,314	100.0	543	100.0	19,898	100.0
Single	325	75.8	14,475	71.3	483	89.0	16,595	83.4
Married, spouse present	91	21.2	4,920	24.2	52	9.6	2,859	14.4
Married, spouse absent	4	0.9	468	2.3	4	0.7	248	1.2
Separated	2	0.5	330	1.6	-	-	116	0.6
Other	2	0.5	138	0.7	3	0.6	132	0.7
Widowed	2	0.5	21	0.1	-	-	4	-
Divorced	7	1.6	432	2.1	4	0.7	191	1.0
25 to 34 years	288	100.0	18,916	100.0	316	100.0	18,309	100.0
Single	30	10.4	3,108	16.4	65	20.6	4,676	25.5
Married, spouse present	244	84.7	12,674	67.0	225	71.2	11,685	63.8
Married, spouse absent	7	2.4	1,058	5.6	9	2.8	637	3.5
Separated	7	2.4	898	4.7	4	1.3	460	2.5
Other	-	-	160	0.8	5	1.6	176	1.0
Widowed	3	1.0	128	0.7	-	-	22	0.1
Divorced	3	1.0	1,947	10.3	17	5.4	1,290	7.0
35 to 44 years	341	100.0	13,040	100.0	349	100.0	12,456	100.0
Single	19	5.6	709	5.4	42	12.0	1,042	8.4
Married, spouse present	311	19.2	9,727	74.6	288	82.5	9,747	78.3
Married, spouse absent	4	1.2	761	5.8	3	0.9	481	3.9
Separated	4	1.2	632	4.8	2	0.6	387	3.1
Other	-	-	129	1.0	1	0.3	94	0.8
Widowed	1	0.3	293	2.2	-	-	61	0.5
Divorced	6	1.8	1,549	11.9	17	4.9	1,125	9.0
45 to 54 years	371	100.0	11,282	100.0	349	100.0	10,491	100.0
Single	10	2.7	537	4.8	14	4.0	534	5.1
Married, spouse present	354	95.4	8,303	73.6	316	90.3	8,666	82.6
Married, spouse absent	3	0.8	499	4.4	4	1.1	357	3.4
Separated	-	-	413	3.7	4	1.1	249	2.4
Other	3	0.8	85	0.8	-	-	108	1.0
Widowed	4	1.1	791	7.0	2	0.6	153	1.5
Divorced	1	0.3	1,153	10.2	13	3.7	780	7.4
55 to 64 years	356	100.0	11,218	100.0	375	100.0	9,756	100.0
Single	9	2.5	478	4.3	26	6.9	495	5.1
Married, spouse present	316	88.8	7,446	66.4	332	88.5	7,943	81.4
Married, spouse absent	-	-	371	3.3	-	-	310	3.2
Separated	-	-	271	2.4	-	-	212	2.2
Other	-	-	100	0.9	-	-	98	1.0
Widowed	25	7.0	2,103	18.7	7	1.9	403	4.1
Divorced	7	2.0	820	7.3	10	2.7	605	6.2
65 years old and over	373	100.0	14,205	100.0	387	100.0	9,720	100.0
Single	12	3.2	821	5.8	11	2.8	442	4.5
Married, spouse present	229	61.4	5,281	37.2	332	85.8	7,451	76.7
Married, spouse absent	5	1.3	233	1.6	8	2.1	227	2.3
Separated	1	0.3	125	0.9	3	0.8	120	1.2
Other	4	1.1	107	0.8	4	1.0	107	1.1
Widowed	125	33.5	7,350	51.7	30	7.8	1,265	13.0
Divorced	3	0.8	520	3.7	7	1.8	336	3.5

Source: March 1981 Current Population Survey. Based on 1980 census population controls; see appendix B.

Table 6. Characteristics of Farm and Nonfarm Families, by Race: March 1981

(Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Characteristic	All races			White			Black		
	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
All families	60,309	1,631	58,678	52,711	1,565	51,146	6,317	48	6,269
TYPE OF FAMILY									
Married-couple families	49,294	1,521	47,773	44,861	1,471	43,390	3,392	34	3,358
Other families	11,015	110	10,905	7,849	94	7,755	2,925	13	2,912
Male householder	1,933	44	1,889	1,583	43	1,540	291	-	291
Female householder	9,082	66	9,016	6,266	51	6,215	2,634	13	2,621
SIZE OF FAMILY									
Two persons	23,768	671	23,097	21,492	662	20,830	1,965	7	1,958
Three persons	14,039	362	13,677	12,258	357	11,901	1,514	5	1,509
Four persons	12,436	288	12,148	10,852	277	10,575	1,270	5	1,265
Five persons	6,019	172	5,847	5,089	152	4,937	751	15	736
Six persons	2,471	82	2,389	1,966	70	1,896	417	9	408
Seven or more persons	1,575	56	1,519	1,054	47	1,007	402	8	394
Total persons	196,963	5,403	191,560	168,802	5,068	163,734	23,105	249	22,856
Average per family	3.27	3.31	3.26	3.20	3.24	3.20	3.66	(B)	3.65
MEMBERS UNDER 18									
All families	60,309	1,631	58,678	52,711	1,565	51,146	6,317	48	6,269
No members under 18	27,479	894	26,585	25,242	876	24,366	1,848	13	1,835
One member under 18	13,376	279	13,097	11,370	266	11,104	1,697	11	1,686
Two members under 18	12,017	253	11,764	10,306	234	10,072	1,386	11	1,375
Three or more members under 18	7,437	205	7,232	5,792	189	5,603	1,386	12	1,374
Total members under 18	62,289	1,501	60,788	51,153	1,393	49,760	9,257	77	9,180
Average per family	1.03	0.92	1.04	0.97	0.89	0.97	1.47	(B)	1.46
MEMBERS 18 TO 64									
All families	60,309	1,631	58,678	52,711	1,565	51,146	6,317	48	6,269
No members 18 to 64	5,077	197	4,880	4,736	192	4,544	301	5	296
One member 18 to 64	9,168	173	8,995	7,125	166	6,959	1,890	5	1,885
Two members 18 to 64	35,498	919	34,579	31,819	894	30,925	2,935	15	2,920
Three or more members 18 to 64	10,564	341	10,223	9,029	312	8,717	1,191	23	1,168
Total members 18 to 64	117,983	3,253	114,730	102,506	3,048	99,458	12,524	152	12,372
Average per family	1.96	1.99	1.96	1.94	1.95	1.94	1.98	(B)	1.97
MEMBERS 65 AND OVER									
All families	60,309	1,631	58,678	52,711	1,565	51,146	6,317	48	6,269
No members 65 and over	49,318	1,211	48,107	42,878	1,162	41,716	5,329	32	5,297
One member 65 and over	5,403	193	5,210	4,640	181	4,459	647	11	636
Two members 65 and over	5,455	223	5,232	5,074	219	4,855	327	4	323
Three or more members 65 and over	134	5	129	118	3	115	15	1	14
Total members 65 and over	16,691	649	16,042	15,143	627	14,516	1,323	20	1,303
Average per family	0.28	0.40	0.27	0.29	0.40	0.28	0.21	(B)	0.21
OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18									
All families	60,309	1,631	58,678	52,711	1,565	51,146	6,317	48	6,269
No own children under 18	29,081	937	28,144	26,187	905	25,282	2,444	26	2,418
With own children under 18	31,228	694	30,534	26,523	660	25,863	3,873	21	3,852
One own child under 18	12,745	261	12,484	10,977	250	10,727	1,480	7	1,473
Two own children under 18	11,592	236	11,356	10,017	226	9,791	1,257	4	1,253
Three own children under 18	4,615	124	4,491	3,822	118	3,704	654	5	649
Four or more own children under 18	2,275	73	2,202	1,708	67	1,641	482	5	477
Total own children under 18	58,702	1,418	57,284	49,200	1,342	47,858	7,788	51	7,737
Average per family	0.97	0.87	0.98	0.93	0.86	0.94	1.23	(B)	1.23
Average per family with children	1.88	2.04	1.88	1.85	2.03	1.85	2.01	(B)	2.01

Source: March 1981 Current Population Survey. Based on 1980 census population controls; see appendix B.

Table 7. Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Residence of the Farm and Nonfarm Population, by Race and Spanish Origin: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Race and residence	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Percent distribution		
				Total	Farm	Nonfarm
ALL RACES						
United States	[1]219,583	5,790	213,793	100.0	100.0	100.0
Inside SMSA's[2]	148,084	940	147,144	67.4	16.2	68.8
SMSA's of 1 million or more	84,005	224	83,780	38.3	3.9	39.2
SMSA's of less than 1 million	64,080	716	63,364	29.2	12.4	29.6
Outside SMSA's	71,499	4,849	66,650	32.6	83.7	31.2
WHITE						
United States	189,056	5,486	183,571	100.0	100.0	100.0
Inside SMSA's	124,538	923	123,615	65.9	16.8	67.3
SMSA's of 1 million or more	68,834	222	68,612	36.4	4.0	37.4
SMSA's of less than 1 million	55,703	701	55,002	29.5	12.8	30.0
Outside SMSA's	64,518	4,562	59,956	34.1	83.2	32.7
BLACK						
United States	25,930	222	25,708	100.0	100.0	100.0
Inside SMSA's	19,981	11	19,970	77.1	5.0	77.7
SMSA's of 1 million or more	12,908	-	12,908	49.8	-	50.2
SMSA's of less than 1 million	7,072	11	7,062	27.3	5.0	27.5
Outside SMSA's	5,950	212	5,738	22.9	95.5	22.3
SPANISH ORIGIN[3]						
United States	13,539	111	13,428	100.0	100.0	100.0
Inside SMSA's	11,415	26	11,389	84.3	23.4	84.8
SMSA's of 1 million or more	7,454	18	7,437	55.1	16.2	55.4
SMSA's of less than 1 million	3,961	8	3,952	29.3	7.2	29.4
Outside SMSA's	2,125	85	2,040	15.7	76.6	15.2

[1]The total U.S. population figure shown here differs from that shown in table A because the latter refers to the total resident population, whereas this and other tables refer only to the civilian noninstitutional population.

[2]SMSA's refers to standard metropolitan statistical areas as designated in the 1970 census publications; see the section, "Definitions and Explanations."

[3]Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

Table 8. Employment Status of the Farm Population 14 Years Old and Over, by Sex, for 1981 and 1978, and Region, for 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April)

Sex and employment status	United States		North and West	South	Percent distribution			
					United States		North and West	South
	1981	1978	1981	1981	1981	1978	1981	1981
Both sexes	4,674	5,186	3,045	1,629	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	3,008	3,273	2,023	985	64.4	63.1	66.4	60.5
Not in labor force	1,666	1,914	1,022	645	35.6	36.9	33.6	39.6
In labor force	3,008	3,273	2,023	985	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	2,924	3,199	1,975	949	97.2	97.7	97.6	96.3
Agriculture	1,628	1,774	1,188	440	54.1	54.2	58.7	44.7
Nonagricultural industries	1,296	1,426	787	509	43.1	43.6	38.9	51.7
Unemployed	84	73	49	35	2.8	2.2	2.4	3.6
Male	2,422	2,715	1,580	841	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	1,955	2,211	1,303	651	80.7	81.4	82.5	77.4
Not in labor force	467	504	277	190	19.3	18.6	17.5	22.6
In labor force	1,955	2,211	1,303	651	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	1,917	2,179	1,282	636	98.1	98.6	98.4	97.7
Agriculture	1,285	1,430	919	367	65.7	64.7	70.5	56.4
Nonagricultural industries	632	749	363	269	32.3	33.9	27.9	41.3
Unemployed	38	32	23	15	1.9	1.4	1.8	2.3
Female	2,252	2,472	1,465	788	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	1,503	1,061	719	333	46.8	42.9	49.1	42.3
Not in labor force	1,199	1,410	744	455	53.2	57.0	50.8	57.7
In labor force	1,503	1,061	719	333	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	1,007	1,020	693	313	95.6	96.1	96.4	94.0
Agriculture	342	344	269	73	32.5	32.4	37.4	21.9
Nonagricultural industries	664	676	424	240	63.1	63.7	59.0	72.1
Unemployed	46	41	26	20	4.4	3.9	3.6	6.0

Table 9. Employment Status of the Farm Population 14 Years Old and Over, by Race and Sex, for Regions: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Race, sex, and employment status	United States	North and West	South	Percent distribution		
				United States	North and West	South
WHITE						
Both sexes	4,442	3,003	1,440	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	2,886	2,002	884	65.0	66.7	61.4
Not in labor force	1,556	1,001	556	35.0	33.3	38.6
In labor force	2,886	2,002	884	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	2,814	1,954	860	97.5	97.6	97.3
Agriculture	1,574	1,176	397	54.5	58.7	44.9
Nonagricultural industries	1,240	777	462	43.0	38.8	52.3
Unemployed	72	48	24	2.5	2.4	2.7
Male	2,303	1,560	743	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	1,876	1,290	586	81.5	82.7	78.9
Not in labor force	427	270	157	18.5	17.3	21.1
In labor force	1,876	1,290	586	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	1,844	1,269	576	98.3	98.4	98.3
Agriculture	1,240	910	330	66.1	70.5	56.3
Nonagricultural industries	605	359	246	32.2	27.8	42.0
Unemployed	32	22	11	1.7	1.7	1.9
Female	2,139	1,442	697	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	1,010	712	298	47.2	49.4	42.8
Not in labor force	1,130	730	399	52.8	50.6	57.2
In labor force	1,010	712	298	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	970	686	284	96.0	96.3	95.3
Agriculture	334	266	68	33.1	37.4	22.8
Nonagricultural industries	636	419	216	63.0	58.8	72.5
Unemployed	40	26	14	4.0	3.7	4.7
BLACK						
Both sexes	172	1	171	100.0	(B)	100.0
In labor force	88	1	87	51.2	(B)	50.9
Not in labor force	84	-	84	48.8	(B)	49.1
In labor force	88	1	87	100.0	(B)	100.0
Employed	78	1	76	88.6	(B)	87.4
Agriculture	38	1	37	43.2	(B)	42.5
Nonagricultural industries	39	-	39	44.3	(B)	44.8
Unemployed	10	-	11	11.4	(B)	12.6
Male	90	1	89	100.0	(B)	100.0
In labor force	58	1	57	64.4	(B)	64.0
Not in labor force	32	-	32	35.6	(B)	36.0
In labor force	58	1	57	(B)	(B)	(B)
Employed	54	1	53	(B)	(B)	(B)
Agriculture	34	1	33	(B)	(B)	(B)
Nonagricultural industries	20	-	20	(B)	(B)	(B)
Unemployed	4	-	4	(B)	(B)	(B)
Female	82	-	82	100.0	(B)	100.0
In labor force	30	-	30	36.6	(B)	36.6
Not in labor force	52	-	52	63.4	(B)	63.4
In labor force	30	-	30	(B)	(B)	(B)
Employed	24	-	23	(B)	(B)	(B)
Agriculture	5	-	4	(B)	(B)	(B)
Nonagricultural industries	19	-	19	(B)	(B)	(B)
Unemployed	6	-	7	(B)	(B)	(B)

Table 10. Farm Residents 14 Years Old and Over Employed in Agriculture and Nonagricultural Industries, by Class of Worker and Sex, for 1981 and 1978, and Regions, for 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Sex and class of worker	United States		North and West	South	Percent distribution			
					United States		North and West	South
	1981	1978	1981	1981	1981	1978	1981	1981
TOTAL WORKERS								
Both sexes	2,924	3,199	1,975	949	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,162	1,222	835	327	39.7	38.2	42.3	34.5
Wage and salary workers	1,494	1,659	920	574	51.1	51.9	46.6	60.5
Unpaid family workers	268	319	220	48	9.2	10.0	11.1	5.1
Male	1,917	2,179	1,282	636	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	979	1,089	705	275	51.1	50.0	55.0	43.2
Wage and salary workers	839	978	493	346	43.8	44.9	38.5	54.4
Unpaid family workers	99	113	83	15	5.2	5.2	6.5	2.4
Female	1,007	1,020	693	313	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	183	133	130	53	18.2	13.0	18.8	16.9
Wage and salary workers	655	681	428	228	65.0	66.8	61.8	72.8
Unpaid family workers	169	206	135	33	16.8	20.2	19.5	10.5
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS								
Both sexes	1,628	1,774	1,188	440	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,037	1,086	761	277	63.7	61.2	64.1	63.0
Wage and salary workers	338	383	218	120	20.8	21.6	18.4	27.3
Unpaid family workers	252	305	208	43	15.5	17.2	17.5	9.8
Male	1,285	1,430	919	367	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	909	996	663	247	70.7	69.7	72.1	67.3
Wage and salary workers	283	322	177	106	22.0	22.5	19.3	28.9
Unpaid family workers	93	112	78	14	7.2	7.8	8.5	3.8
Female	342	344	269	73	100.0	100.0	100.0	(B)
Self-employed workers	128	90	98	30	37.4	26.2	36.4	(B)
Wage and salary workers	55	61	41	14	16.1	17.7	15.2	(B)
Unpaid family workers	159	193	130	29	46.5	56.1	48.3	(B)
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WORKERS								
Both sexes	1,296	1,426	787	509	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	125	136	74	51	9.6	9.5	9.4	10.0
Wage and salary workers	1,156	1,276	702	453	89.2	89.5	89.2	89.0
Unpaid family workers	15	13	10	5	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.0
Male	632	749	363	269	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	70	93	42	28	11.1	12.4	11.6	10.4
Wage and salary workers	556	656	317	240	88.0	87.6	87.3	89.2
Unpaid family workers	6	-	4	1	0.9	-	1.1	0.4
Female	664	676	424	240	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	55	43	32	23	8.3	6.4	7.5	9.6
Wage and salary workers	600	620	387	213	90.4	91.7	91.3	88.8
Unpaid family workers	10	13	6	4	1.5	1.9	1.4	1.7

Table 11. Industry of Employed Farm Residents, by Sex, for Regions: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April)

Sex and industry	Number			Percent distribution		
	United States	North and West	South	United States	North and West	South
BOTH SEXES						
Total employed, 14 years old and over	2,924	1,975	949	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	1,628	1,188	440	55.7	60.2	46.4
Nonagricultural industries	1,296	787	509	44.3	39.8	53.6
Nonagricultural industries	1,296	787	509	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mining	21	11	10	1.6	1.4	2.0
Construction	119	67	53	9.2	8.5	10.4
Manufacturing	287	157	130	22.1	19.9	25.5
Transportation, communications, and other public facilities	75	47	28	5.8	6.0	5.5
Wholesale trade	48	32	16	3.7	4.1	3.1
Retail trade	235	150	84	18.1	19.1	16.5
Finance, insurance, and real estate	56	34	22	4.3	4.3	4.3
Services industries	387	252	135	29.9	32.0	26.5
Public administration	68	39	30	5.2	5.0	5.9
MALE						
Total employed, 14 years old and over	1,917	1,282	636	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	1,285	919	367	67.0	71.7	57.7
Nonagricultural industries	632	363	269	33.0	28.3	42.3
Nonagricultural industries	632	363	269	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mining	18	9	9	2.8	2.5	3.3
Construction	112	61	51	17.7	16.8	19.0
Manufacturing	192	108	84	30.4	29.8	31.2
Transportation, communications, and other public facilities	53	34	19	8.4	9.4	7.1
Wholesale trade	31	20	11	4.9	5.5	4.1
Retail trade	85	47	38	13.4	12.9	14.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	16	10	7	2.5	2.8	2.6
Services industries	89	55	34	14.1	15.2	12.6
Public administration	36	19	17	5.7	5.2	6.3
FEMALE						
Total employed, 14 years old and over	1,007	693	313	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	342	269	73	34.0	38.8	23.3
Nonagricultural industries	664	424	240	65.9	61.2	76.7
Nonagricultural industries	664	424	240	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mining	3	1	1	0.5	0.2	0.4
Construction	7	5	2	1.1	1.2	0.8
Manufacturing	95	49	46	14.3	11.6	19.2
Transportation, communications, and other public facilities	22	13	9	3.3	3.1	3.8
Wholesale trade	17	12	5	2.6	2.8	2.1
Retail trade	150	102	47	22.6	24.1	19.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate	40	25	15	6.0	5.9	6.2
Services industries	298	196	102	44.9	46.2	42.5
Public administration	32	20	13	4.8	4.7	5.4

Table 12. Farm Residents 14 Years Old and Over Employed in Agriculture and Nonagricultural Industries, by Class of Worker, Race, and Sex, for Regions: 1981

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are five-quarter averages centered on April. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Race, sex, and class of worker	Agricultural workers			Nonagricultural workers			Percent distribution					
							Agricultural workers			Nonagricultural workers		
	United States	North and West	South	United States	North and West	South	United States	North and West	South	United States	North and West	South
WHITE												
Both sexes	1,574	1,176	397	1,240	777	462	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,020	755	266	122	74	48	64.8	64.2	67.0	9.8	9.5	10.4
Wage and salary workers	305	214	91	1,102	693	409	19.4	18.2	22.9	88.9	89.2	88.5
Unpaid family workers	249	208	41	15	10	5	15.8	17.7	10.3	1.2	1.3	1.1
Male	1,240	910	330	605	359	246	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	893	657	236	69	42	27	72.0	72.2	71.5	11.4	11.7	11.0
Wage and salary workers	255	175	80	530	312	218	20.6	19.2	24.2	87.6	86.9	88.6
Unpaid family workers	92	78	13	6	4	1	7.4	8.6	3.9	1.0	1.1	0.4
Female	334	266	68	636	419	216	100.0	100.0	(B)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	126	97	30	53	32	21	37.7	36.5	(B)	8.3	7.6	9.7
Wage and salary workers	51	40	10	573	382	191	15.3	15.0	(B)	90.1	91.2	88.4
Unpaid family workers	157	129	28	10	6	4	47.0	48.5	(B)	1.6	1.4	1.9
BLACK												
Both sexes	38	1	37	39	-	39	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Self-employed workers	9	-	8	1	-	1	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Wage and salary workers	30	1	28	38	-	38	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Unpaid family workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Male	34	1	33	20	-	20	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Self-employed workers	8	-	8	1	-	1	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Wage and salary workers	25	1	24	20	-	20	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Unpaid family workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Female	5	-	4	19	-	19	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Self-employed workers	-	-	-	1	-	1	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Wage and salary workers	5	-	4	18	-	18	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Unpaid family workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)

Table 13. Income of Farm and Nonfarm Families, by Race: 1980

(Families as of March 1981. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Characteristic	All races			White			Black		
	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Total families (thousands)	60,309	1,631	58,678	52,710	1,565	51,146	6,317	48	6,269
Percent of families by 1980 income	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(B)	100.0
Less than $2,500 or loss	2.1	7.3	1.9	1.6	7.2	1.5	5.3	(B)	5.3
$2,500 to $4,999	4.1	4.4	4.1	3.3	4.2	3.2	11.3	(B)	11.3
$5,000 to $7,499	6.2	9.7	6.1	5.3	9.6	5.2	13.4	(B)	13.3
$7,500 to $9,999	6.5	9.1	6.4	6.0	8.8	5.9	10.4	(B)	10.4
$10,000 to $14,999	14.2	17.4	14.1	13.9	17.3	13.8	16.8	(B)	16.8
$15,000 to $19,999	14.0	13.0	14.0	14.1	13.1	14.2	12.8	(B)	12.8
$20,000 to $24,999	13.7	12.4	13.7	14.2	12.7	14.2	10.2	(B)	10.3
$25,000 to $29,999	11.2	8.8	11.3	11.8	8.9	11.9	6.7	(B)	6.7
$30,000 to $34,999	8.6	5.1	8.7	9.0	5.1	9.1	5.1	(B)	5.1
$35,000 to $39,999	6.0	3.9	6.0	6.3	4.0	6.4	3.4	(B)	3.4
$40,000 to $44,999	4.2	2.8	4.2	4.4	2.9	4.5	1.9	(B)	1.9
$45,000 to $49,999	2.7	1.7	2.7	2.8	1.6	2.9	1.1	(B)	1.1
$50,000 and over	6.7	4.3	6.7	7.2	4.5	7.3	1.7	(B)	1.7
Median income...dollars	21,023	15,755	21,151	21,904	16,076	22,060	12,674	(B)	12,701
Mean income...dollars	23,974	18,957	24,113	24,939	19,194	25,114	15,806	(B)	15,818
Percent of families—									
Below poverty level	10.3	14.0	10.2	8.0	13.1	7.8	28.9	(B)	28.9
Above poverty level	89.7	86.0	89.8	92.0	86.9	92.2	71.1	(B)	71.1
Percent of persons—									
Below poverty level	13.0	17.5	12.9	10.2	16.5	10.0	32.5	30.2	32.5
Above poverty level	87.0	82.5	87.1	89.8	83.5	90.0	67.5	69.8	67.5

Source: March 1981 Current Population Survey. Based on 1980 census population controls; see appendix B.

Table 14. Median Income of Farm and Nonfarm Families in Constant 1980 Dollars, by Race: 1970 to 1980

(Families as of March of the following year. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Year	All races			White			Black		
	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
CURRENT FARM DEFINITION									
1980	21,023	15,755	21,151	21,904	16,076	22,060	12,674	(B)	12,701
1979 (based on 1980 census population controls)[1]	22,236	18,483	22,339	23,203	18,898	23,322	13,139	(B)	13,193
1979 (based on 1970 census population controls)[1]	22,320	18,569	22,425	23,275	18,940	23,396	13,219	(B)	13,270
1978	22,290	19,384	22,380	23,212	19,704	(NA)	13,748	(B)	(NA)
1977	21,767	16,637	21,928	22,763	(NA)	(NA)	13,005	(NA)	(NA)
PREVIOUS FARM DEFINITION									
1979	22,320	18,893	(NA)	23,275	19,302	(NA)	13,219	(B)	(NA)
1978	22,290	19,313	22,406	23,212	19,666	23,342	13,748	8,610	13,825
1977	21,767	17,183	21,946	22,763	17,789	22,969	13,005	7,562	13,121
1976	21,643	16,882	21,807	22,490	17,556	22,648	13,378	7,499	13,541
1975	20,995	16,604	21,172	21,844	17,206	22,033	13,440	7,567	13,582
1974	21,551	17,731	21,708	22,405	18,224	22,587	13,378	8,727	13,485
1973	22,336	18,627	22,533	23,354	19,246	23,564	13,479	8,527	13,607
1972	21,886	17,436	22,118	22,748	17,948	23,003	13,520	7,725	13,667
1971	20,918	14,637	21,231	21,714	15,082	22,044	13,103	6,631	13,324
1970	20,929	14,381	21,244	21,722	14,897	22,054	13,324	6,424	13,569

[1]See appendix B.

Source: March Current Population Surveys.

Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. With the exception of the total population shown in table A, all figures in this report relate to the civilian noninstitutional population as estimated by the Current Population Survey. The military population living in barracks and the population in institutions are not included in the Current Population Survey. The figures in the report, except where otherwise noted, do not reflect the 1980 decennial census results.

Farm Population. In the Current Population Survey, the farm population as currently defined consists of all persons living in rural territory on places from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold, or normally would have been sold, in the reporting year (for the CPS the preceding 12 months). Persons in summer camps, motels, and tourist camps, and those living on rented places where no land is used for farming, are classified as nonfarm.

Under the previous farm definition, in use in this data series from 1960 through 1977, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places of 10 or more acres if at least $50 worth of agricultural products were sold from the place in the reporting year. It also includes those living on places of under 10 acres if at least $250 worth of agricultural products were sold from the place in the reporting year.

Farm residence under the current and previous farm definitions was determined in the Current Population Survey by the responses to two questions. Owners (and renters) are first asked "Does this place (you rent) have 10 or more acres?" They are then asked "During the past 12 months, how much did sales of crops, livestock, and other farm products from this place amount to?" The respondents are given a choice of four answers: "$1,000 or more," "$250 to $999," "$50 to $249," and "Under $50."

Farms located within the boundaries of urban territory, comprising a small minority of all farms, are not treated as farms for population census purposes, and their population is not included in the farm population. Urban territory includes all places with a population of 2,500 or more and the densely settled urbanized fringe areas around cities of 50,000 or more. Beginning with the 1972 estimate, the estimated farm population is limited to the rural territory as determined in the 1970 Census of Population. In the Current Population Surveys of 1963 through 1971, the urban-rural boundaries used were those of the 1960 Census of Population and did not take into account the annexations and other substantial expansions of urban territory that were incorporated into the 1970 Census of Population. The net effect was to classify an unknown number of persons as rural farm in the Current Population Surveys of 1970 and 1971 who were treated as urban (and hence nonfarm) in the 1970 census as well as in the Current Population Surveys beginning in 1972.

Nonfarm population. The nonfarm population comprises all persons living in urban areas and all rural persons not on farms.

Five-quarter averages centered on April. April-centered annual averages of the farm population were computed by using data for the five quarters centered on the April date for which the estimate was being prepared. For example, for April 1981, quarterly estimates for the months of October 1980, and January, April, July, and October 1981, were used with a weight of one-eighth given to each of the two October estimates and a weight of one-fourth to each of the estimates for the other 3 months. One reason for the choice of April as the date for centering population estimates is that this is the decennial census month.

April-centered annual averages for persons under 14 years by race and sex, and for persons 14 years old and over, by race, sex, age, labor force characteristics, and region were also computed for 1981 by using data for the specified characteristics for the five quarters centered on April 1981.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1970 population census publications and does not include any subsequent additions or changes. For the 1970 census, except in New England, an SMSA was defined as a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties were included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they were essentially metropolitan in character and were socially and economically integrated with the central county. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties.

Geographic regions. The major regions of the United States for which data are presented represent groups of States as follows:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

North and West: Northeast, North Central, and West regions combined.

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at last birthday.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except White and Black.

Persons of Spanish origin. Persons of Spanish origin in this report were determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (or the origin of some other household member) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Spanish origin, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Spanish origin. It should be noted that persons of Spanish origin can be of any race.

Family. The term "family" refers to a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of the same family. Thus, if the son and the son's wife are in the household, they are treated as part of the householder's family. On the other hand, a lodger and his wife not related to the householder or an unrelated servant and his wife are considered as unrelated subfamilies (in households) and not as part of the householder's family. Unrelated subfamilies are not included in the count of families.

Householder. The instructions call for listing first the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the home is owned or rented. If the house is owned jointly by a married couple, either the husband or the wife may be listed first, thereby becoming the reference person, or householder, to whom the relationship of the other household members is recorded. One person in each household is designated as the "householder." The number of householders, therefore, is equal to the number of households.

Size of family. The term "size of family" refers to the number of persons living together and who are related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Own children and related children under 18 years of age. "Own" children in a family are sons and daughters, including stepchildren and adopted children of the householder. "Related" children in a family include own children and all other children in the household who are related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Marital status. The marital status classification identifies four major categories: single (never married), married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

The category "married" is divided into "married, spouse present," and "married, spouse absent." A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as "married, spouse absent" include those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily separated because of marital discord. The category also includes married persons living apart because either the husband or wife was employed and living at a considerable distance from home, was serving away from home in the Armed Forces, had moved to another area, or had a different place of residence for any other reason.

Children ever born. The term "children ever born" refers to the total number of live births reported by women. Included in the number are children born to the woman before her present marriage, children no longer living, and children away from home, as well as children who were still living in the home.

Births to date. In the data on birth expectations in table D, the number of "births to date" has the same meaning as the number of children ever born.

Future births expected. In the data on birth expectations in table D, the number of "future births expected" refers to any births a woman expects in addition to the children she has already borne, if any.

Lifetime births expected. In the data on births expectations in table D, the number of "lifetime births expected" refers to the sum of births to date and future births expected. The sum represents the total number of births a woman expects during her lifetime.

Labor force and employment status. The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report relate to the population 14 years old and over.

Labor force. Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Employed. Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid

employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific job-seeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Not in the labor force. All civilians 14 years old and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work; seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season; and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the week surveyed) are also classified as not in the labor force.

Agriculture. The industry category "agriculture" is somewhat more inclusive than the total of the two major occupation groups, "farmers and farm managers" and "farm laborers and supervisors." It also includes (1) persons employed on farms in occupations such as truck driver, mechanic, and bookkeeper, and (2) persons engaged in certain activities other than strictly farm operation such as cotton ginning, contract farm services, veterinary and breeding services, hatcheries, experimental stations, greenhouses, landscape gardening, tree service, trapping, hunting preserves, and kennels.

Nonagricultural industries. This category includes all industries not specifically classed under agriculture. The industry groups shown were based on the classification system used in the 1970 Census of Population.

Multiple jobs. Persons with two or more jobs during the survey week were classified as employed in the industry in which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. Consequently, some of the persons shown in this report as engaged in nonagricultural activities also engaged in agriculture and vice versa.

Class of Worker:

Self-employed workers. Persons who worked for profit or fees in their own business, profession, or trade, or who operated a farm either as an owner or tenant.

Wage and salary workers. Persons who worked for any governmental unit or private employer for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay "in kind," or at piece rates.

Unpaid family workers. Persons who worked 15 or more hours per week without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a person to whom they are related by blood or marriage.

Money income. Data on income collected in the CPS are limited to money income received before payments for personal income taxes and deductions for Social Security, union dues, Medicare premiums, etc. Money income is the sum of the amounts received from earnings (including losses which occurred among the self-employed from their own farm or nonfarm operations); Social Security and public assistance payments; Supplemental Security income; dividends, interest, and rent (including losses); unemployment and workmen's compensation; government and private employee pensions; and other periodic income. Therefore, money income does not reflect the fact that many families receive part of their income in the form of nonmoney transfers such as food stamps, health benefits, and subsidized housing; that many farm families receive nonmoney income in the form of rent-free housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm; or that nonmoney incomes are also received by some nonfarm residents, such as the use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial payments by business for retirement programs, medical and educational expenses, etc. These elements should be considered when comparing income levels.

Receipts from the following sources are not included as income: (1) Money received from the sale of property, such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car (unless the person was engaged in the business of selling such property, in which case the net proceeds would be counted as income from self-employment); (2) withdrawals of bank deposits: (3) money borrowed; (4) tax refunds; (5) gifts; and (6) lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

Family income. The total income of a family is the algebraic sum of the amounts received by all income recipients in the family.

In the income distribution for families, the lowest income group (less than $2,500) includes those families who were classified as having no income in the income year and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income. Many of these were living on income "in kind," savings, or gifts; or were newly constituted families; or families in which the sole breadwinner had recently died or had left the household. However, many of the families who reported no income probably had some money income which was not recorded in the survey.

It should be noted that although the income statistics refer to receipts during the preceding year, the composition of families refers to the time of the survey. The income of the family does not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the income year if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of enumeration. On the other hand, family income includes amounts reported by related persons who did not reside with the family during the income year but who were members of the family at the time of enumeration.

Poverty (low-income) classification. Families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level using the poverty index developed at the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969. The poverty index is based solely on money income and does not reflect the fact that many low-income persons received noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing. The index is based on the Department of Agriculture's 1961 economy food plan and reflects the different consumption requirements of families based on their size and composition, sex and age of the family householder, and farm-nonfarm residence. It was determined from the Department of Agriculture's 1955 survey of food consumption that families of three or more persons spend approximately one-third of their income on food; the poverty level for these families was, therefore, set at three times the cost of the economy food plan. For smaller families and persons living alone, the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher in order to compensate for the relatively large fixed expenses of these smaller households. Households are classified according to the poverty status of the family or the nonfamily householder. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The average poverty threshold for a farm family of four was $7,170 in 1980, about 13.3 percent higher than the comparable 1979 cutoff of $6,329. Corresponding poverty thresholds for a nonfarm family of four were $8,414 in 1980 and $7,412 in 1979. For further details, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 124.

Median. The median is the value which divides a distribution into two equal parts, one-half of the cases falling below this value and one-half of the cases exceeding this value.

Symbols. A dash (—) represents zero or a number which rounds to zero. The symbol "B" means that the base for the derived figure is less than 75,000, an "X" means not applicable, and "NA" means not available.

Rounding. The individual figues in this report are rounded to the nearest thousand. With few exceptions, the individual figures have not been adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent; therefore, the percentages in a distribution do not always add to exactly 100.0 percent. The totals, however, are always shown as 100.0. Percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.

Appendix B. Source and Reliability of the Estimates

SOURCE OF DATA

Estimates in this report are primarily derived from data obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Bureau of the Census with some data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most of these CPS estimates are April-centered five-quarter averages. (See appendix A.) Data on income, fertility, and marital status of farm and nonfarm families, however, are monthly estimates obtained from supplementary questions to CPS.

Current Population Survey (CPS). The monthly CPS deals mainly with labor force data for the civilian noninstitutional population. Questions relating to labor force participation are asked about each member 14 years old and older in each sample household. In addition, supplementary questions regarding income and marital status are asked each March and fertility each June. Estimates developed from the supplementary questions asked in March include persons in the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.

The present CPS sample was initially selected from the 1970 census files with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The sample is continually updated to reflect new construction where possible (see section, "Nonsampling Variability," below). The monthly CPS sample is located in 629 areas comprising 1,133 counties, independent cities, and minor civil divisions in the nation. In this sample, approximately 68,000 occupied households were eligible for interview. Of this number, about 3,000 occupied units were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason.

Samples for previous designs were selected from files from the most recently completed census. The following table provides a description of some aspects of the CPS sample designs in use during the referenced data-collection periods.

The estimation procedure used in this survey involves the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the total civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from decennial censuses; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. The estimation procedure for the data from the March supplement involved a further adjustment so that husband and wife of a household received the same weight.

Decennial Census of Population. Decennial census data in this report are based on the sample associated with the census.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Estimates based on a sample may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling and nonsampling. The standard errors provided for this report primarily indicate the magnitude of the sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in response and enumeration, but do not measure any systematic biases in the data. The full extent of nonsampling error is unknown. Consequently, particular care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures based on a relatively small number of cases or on small differences between estimates.

Description of the Current Population Survey

Time period	Number of sample areas[1]	Housing units eligible	
		Interviewed	Not interviewed
January 1980 to present	629	65,000	3,000
October 1977 to December 1979	614	53,500	2,500
August 1972 to September 1977	461	45,000	2,000
August 1971 to July 1972	449	45,000	2,000
January 1970 to July 1971	449	48,000	2,000

[1]These sample areas were chosen to provide coverage in each State and the District of Columbia.

Nonsampling variability. Nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources, e.g., inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, inability or unwillingness to provide correct information on the part of respondents, inability to recall information, errors made in processing the data, errors made in estimating values for missing data, and failure to represent all units with the sample (undercoverage).

Undercoverage in the CPS results from missed housing units and missed persons within sample households. Overall undercoverage, as compared to the level of the 1980 decennial census, is about 7 percent. It is known that CPS undercoverage varies with age, sex, and race. Generally, undercoverage is larger for males than for females and larger for Blacks and other races than for Whites. Ratio estimation to independent age-sex-race population controls, as described previously, partially corrects for the bias due to survey undercoverage. However, biases exist in the estimates to the extent that missed persons in missed households or missed persons in interviewed households have different characteristics than interviewed persons in the same age-sex-race group. Further, the independent population controls used have not been adjusted for undercoverage in the 1980 census.

A coverage improvement sample was included in computing the estimates beginning in 1978, in order to provide coverage of mobile homes and new construction housing units which previously had no chance for selection in the CPS sample. This sample is composed of approximately 450 sample household units which represent 237,000 occupied mobile homes and 600,000 new construction units. These new construction units are composed of those units where building permits were issued prior to January 1970 and construction was not completed by the time of the 1970 census (i.e., April 1970). The extent of other sources of housing undercoverage is unknown but believed to be small. The inclusion of this coverage improvement sample in the CPS does not have a significant effect on the estimates.

Sampling variability. The standard errors given in the following tables are primarily measures of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occurred by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population was surveyed. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error enable one to construct confidence intervals, ranges that include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible samples were selected, each of these surveyed under identical conditions using the same sample design, and an estimate and its estimated standard error were calculated from each sample, then:

1. Approximately 68 percent of the intervals from one standard error below the estimate to one standard error above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

2. Approximately 90 percent of the intervals from 1.6 standard errors below the estimate to 1.6 standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

3. Approximately 95 percent of the intervals from two standard errors below the estimate to two standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

The average result of all possible samples is or is not contained in any particular computed interval. However, for a particular sample, one can say with specified confidence that the average estimate derived from all possible samples is included within the confidence interval.

Standard errors may also be used to perform hypothesis testing, a procedure for distinguishing between population parameters using sample estimates. The most common types of hypotheses appearing in this report are 1) the population parameters are identical or 2) they are different. An example of this would be comparing the median age of farm residents versus the median age of nonfarm residents. Tests may be performed at various levels of significance, where a level of significance is the probability of concluding that the parameters are different when, in fact, they are identical.

All statements of comparison in the text have passed a hypothesis test at the 0.10 level of significance or better, and most have passed a hypothesis test at the 0.05 level of significance or better. This means that, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference between parameters is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. For the other differences, where the estimated difference between parameters is between 1.6 and 2.0 times the standard error of the difference, the statement of comparison is qualified in some way; e.g., by use of the phrase "some evidence."

Comparability of data. Data obtained from the CPS and other governmental sources are not entirely comparable. This is due in large part to differences in interviewer training and experience and in differing survey processes. This is an additional component of error not reflected in the standard error tables. Therefore, caution should be used in comparing results between these different sources.

Caution should be exercised in comparing metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area estimates from 1977 and later years to each other and to those from earlier years. Methodological and sample design changes have occurred in these recent years resulting in relatively large differences in the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area estimates.

Caution should also be exercised in comparing 1981 and revised estimates from 1980, which are controlled to independent population estimates derived from the 1980 census, to those from earlier years, which are controlled to population estimates derived from earlier censuses, as described previously. The population counts as of April 1, 1980, from the 1980 census differ substantially from the independent estimates for the same date, based on the 1970 census. For example, the 1980-based estimate of the civilian noninstitutional population on April 1, 1980, was about 5,000,000 more than the 1970-based estimate for the same date. Although analysis is continuing, it is generally believed that the 1980 census reduced the undercount experienced in 1970 for the population as a whole and most notably for

minority groups. As a result, the estimates from 1980 and later years may differ somewhat more from those for earlier years than what could be attributed to actual changes in the population and these differences may be disproportionately greater for certain sub-population groups than for the total population.

Because of programming error, the June 1980 fertility estimates of farm women in this report are not comparable to estimates of farm women from other supplements also found in this report. The farm fertility estimates from June 1978 to June 1980 were based on the old farm definition rather than the new farm definition. See Appendix A, Definitions and Explanations, for a detailed discussion of both definitions.

Note when using small estimates. Summary measures (such as medians and percent distributions) are shown in the report only when the base is 75,000 or greater. Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that summary measures would reveal useful information when computed on a smaller base. Estimated numbers are shown, however, even though the relative standard errors of these numbers are larger than those for corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates are provided primarily to permit such combinations of the categories which serve each data user's needs.

Standard errors for data based on the decennial census. Sampling errors of all data from the sample of the Decennial Censuses shown in this report are small enough to be disregarded.

Standard error tables and their use. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a large number of estimates and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. Therefore, instead of providing an individual standard error for each estimate, generalized sets of standard errors are provided for various types of characteristics. As a result, the sets of standard errors provided give an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard error of an estimate rather than the precise standard error.

The figures presented in tables B-1 through B-4 provide approximations to the standard errors of various estimates for families and for persons. To obtain standard errors for specific characteristics, factors from table B-5 must be applied to the standard errors given in tables B-1 through B-4 in order to adjust for the combined effect of sample design and the estimating procedure on the value of the characteristic. The figures shown in table B-6 provide standard errors for number of children ever born and number of expected lifetime births per 1,000 women. Standard errors for intermediate values not shown in the generalized tables may be approximated by interpolation.

Two parameters (denoted "a" and "b") are used to calculate standard errors for each type of characteristic; they are presented in table B-5. These parameters were used to calculate the standard errors in tables B-1 through B-4 and to calculate the factors in table B-5. They also may be used to directly calculate the standard errors for estimated numbers and estimated percentages. Methods for direct computation are given in the following sections.

Table B-1. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Persons or Families in the Farm Population

(68 chances out of 100. Numbers in thousands)

Size of estimate	Standard error
25	8
50	11
100	16
250	25
500	35
1,000	49
2,500	78
5,000	109
10,000	152
15,000	184

Note: For a particular characteristic, see table B-5 for the appropriate factor to apply to the above standard errors.

Table B-2. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Persons or Families in the Total or Nonfarm Population

(68 chances out of 100. Numbers in thousands)

Size of estimate	Standard error
25	7
50	11
100	15
250	24
500	33
1,000	47
2,500	74
5,000	104
10,000	145
15,000	176
25,000	221
50,000	293
100,000	348
150,000[1]	327

[1]To derive the standard errors for an estimate greater than 150,000,000 use formula (2).

Note: For a particular characteristic, see table B-5 for the appropriate factor to apply to the above standard errors.

Standard errors of estimated numbers. The approximate standard error, σ_x, of an estimated number shown in this report can be obtained in two ways. It may be obtained by use of the formula

$$\sigma_x = f\sigma \qquad (1)$$

where f is the appropriate factor from table B-5, and σ is the standard error on the estimate obtained by interpolation

from table B-1 or B-2. Alternatively, standard errors may be approximated by formula (2) below, from which the standard errors were calculated in tables B-1 and B-2. Use of this formula will provide more accurate results than the use of formula (1) above.

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{ax^2 + bx} \qquad (2)$$

Here x is the size of the estimate and a and b are the parameters in table B-5 associated with the particular type of characteristic.

Standard errors of estimated percentages. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends on both the size of the precentage and the size of the total upon which this percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more. When the numerator and denominator of the percentage are in different categories, use the factor or parameters indicated by the numerator. The approximate standard error, $\sigma_{(x,p)}$, of an estimated percentage can be obtained by use of the formula

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = f\sigma \qquad (3)$$

In this formula, f is the appropriate factor from table B-5 and σ is the estimated error on the estimate from table B-3 or B-4. Alternatively, the standard error may be approximated by formula (4) below, from which the standard errors in table B-3 and B-4 were calculated; direct computation will

Table B-3. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages of Persons or Families in the Farm Population

Base of percentages (thousands)	Estimated percentages					
	1 or 99	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
25	3.1	4.4	6.8	9.4	13.6	15.7
50	2.2	3.1	4.8	6.6	9.6	11.1
100	1.6	2.2	3.4	4.7	6.8	7.8
250	1.0	1.4	2.2	3.0	4.3	5.0
500	0.7	1.0	1.5	2.1	3.0	3.5
1,000	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.1	2.5
2,500	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.6
5,000	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.1
10,000	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8
15,000	0.13	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6

Note: For a particular characteristic, see table B-5 for the appropriate factor to apply to the above standard errors.

Table B-4. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages of Persons or Families in the Total or Nonfarm Population

Base of percentages (thousands)	Estimated percentages					
	1 or 99	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
25	3.0	4.2	6.5	8.9	12.9	14.9
50	2.1	2.9	4.6	6.3	9.1	10.5
100	1.5	2.1	3.2	4.5	6.4	7.4
250	0.9	1.3	2.1	2.8	4.1	4.7
500	0.7	0.9	1.4	2.0	2.9	3.3
1,000	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.4
2,500	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.5
5,000	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.1
10,000	0.15	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7
15,000	0.12	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
25,000	0.09	0.13	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
50,000	0.07	0.09	0.14	0.2	0.3	0.3
100,000	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.14	0.2	0.2
150,000	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.12	0.2	0.2
200,000	0.03	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.14	0.2

Note: For a particular characteristic, see table B-5 for the appropriate factor to apply to the above standard errors.

give more accurate results than use of the standard error tables and the factors.

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x} \cdot p\,(100 - p)} \qquad (4)$$

Here x is the size of the subclass of persons or families which is the base of the pecentage, p is the percentage ($0 \leq p \leq 100$), and b is the parameter in table B-5 associated with the particular type of characteristic in the numerator of the percentage.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors. Table F of the report shows that 1,628,000 farm residents 14 years old and over were employed in agriculture. Table B-5 shows that for total farm population, agricultural employment, the appropriate factor is 1.0; this factor is to be used with the standard error obtained from table B-1. Interpolation in table B-1 shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 61,000. Applying the factor and using formula (1) would yield a standard error of 61,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from the average of all possible samples by less than 61,000. Similarly, the chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from the average of all possible samples by less than 122,000 (twice the standard error). As an alternative, using formula (2) and the parameters a = -0.000014 and b = 2455 from table B-5 gives an estimate of the standard error to be 63,000.

Table F also shows that of the 342,000 female farm residents employed in agriculture, 55,000 or 16.1 percent were wage and salary workers.

Table B-5 shows the b parameter for this characteristic to be 2455; using formula (4), the standard error, $\sigma_{(x,p)}$, on an estimate of 16.1 percent is

$$\sqrt{\frac{2{,}455}{342{,}000}\ (16.1)\ (100.0 - 16.1)} = 3.1 \text{ percent}^1$$

Consequently, the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated percent would be within 3.1 percentage points of the average of all possible samples. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 6.2 percentage points of the average of all possible samples, i.e., the 95-percent confidence interval on the percent of female farm residents employed in agriculture that were wage and salary workers would be from 9.9 to 22.3 percent.

Standard error of a difference. For a difference between two sample estimates, the standard error is approximately equal to

$$\sigma_{(x-y)} = \sqrt{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2} \qquad (5)$$

where σ_x and σ_y are the standard errors of the estimates x and y, respectively; the estimates can be of numbers, percents, ratios, etc. This will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between two separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive (negative) correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate (underestimate) the true standard error.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference between estimated percentages. Table F of this report shows that of the female farm residents employed in agriculture, 37.4 percent were self-employed. As mentioned above, the percentage of female farm residents employed in agriculture who were wage and salary workers was 16.1 percent. Thus, the apparent difference between female wage and salary workers and self-employed workers is 21.3 percent. Using table B-5 and formula (4), the standard error, $\sigma_{(y,p)}$, on an estimate of 37.4 percent with a base of 342,000 is approximately 4.1. Using formula (5), the standard error of the estimated difference of 21.3 percent is about

$$\sqrt{(3.1)^2 + (4.1)^2} = 5.1$$

This means that the 68-percent confidence interval for the difference between female farm residents employed in agriculture who were wage and salary workers and who were self-employed workers is from 16.2 to 26.4; the 95-percent confidence interval is from 11.1 to 31.5 percent.

Standard error of a median. The sampling variability of an estimated median depends upon the form of the distribution as well as the size of its base. An approximate method for measuring the reliability of an estimated median is to determine a confidence interval about it. (See the section on sampling variability for a general discussion of confidence intervals.) The following procedure may be used to estimate the 68-percent confidence limits of a median based on sample data. The limits from a 68-percent confidence interval are then used to obtain an approximate standard error of a median.

1. Determine, using the standard error tables and factors or formula (4), the standard error of the estimate of 50 percent from the distribution.

2. Add to and subtract from 50 percent, the standard error determined in step (1).

3. Using the distribution of the characteristic, calculate the 68-percent confidence interval by calculating the values corresponding to the two points established in step (2).

4. Once the limits of the 68-percent confidence interval are computed, the standard error of a median can be computed by the formula:

$$\sigma_{\text{median}} = \frac{U - L}{2}$$

[1] As an alternative, tables B-3 and B-5 can be used to compute an estimated standard error of 3.2 x 1.0 = 3.2 percent on the estimate of 16.1 percent.

Table B-5. Parameters and Factors to be Used to Obtain Standard Errors for Each Type of Characteristic

Type of characteristic	Parameters		f factors	Standard error tables
	a	b		
FIVE-QUARTER AVERAGES				
Farm Population				
Race, age, sex, and employment subsets				
Total farm population, agricultural employment, or nonagricultural employment:				
All races	-0.000014	2,455	1.0	B-1, B-3
Spanish origin	(X)	5,219	1.5	B-1, B-3
Unemployed:				
Total or White	-0.000006	1,054	0.7	B-1, B-3
Black and other races	-0.000053	1,211	0.7	B-1, B-3
Spanish origin	(X)	997	0.6	B-1, B-3
Total or Nonfarm Population				
Race, age, and sex subsets:				
Total or White	0.0	0	0.0	B-2, B-4
Black or other races	0.0	0	0.0	B-2, B-4
Spanish origin	-0.000039	7,815	1.9	B-2, B-4
Employment subsets				
Agricultural employment:				
All races	-0.000017	2,050	1.0	B-2, B-4
Nonagricultural employment:				
Total or White	-0.000008	1,081	0.7	B-2, B-4
Male	-0.000013	935	0.7	B-2, B-4
Female	-0.000010	801	0.6	B-2, B-4
Black and other races	-0.000069	1,081	0.7	B-2, B-4
Male	-0.000115	935	0.7	B-2, B-4
Female	-0.000079	801	0.6	B-2, B-4
Unemployed	-0.000004	552	0.5	B-2, B-4
Metropolitan Residence				
Farm:				
Total or White	-0.000017	5,036	1.0	B-1, B-3
Black	-0.000262	8,765	1.0	B-1, B-3
Spanish origin	(X)	17,796	1.5	B-1, B-3
Nonfarm:				
Total or White	-0.000010	2,212	1.0	B-2, B-4
Black	-0.000160	3,849	1.3	B-2, B-4
Spanish origin	(X)	7,815	1.9	B-2, B-4
Nonmetropolitan Residence				
Farm:				
Total or White	-0.000026	7,554	1.0	B-1, B-3
Black	-0.000393	13,148	1.0	B-1, B-3
Spanish origin	(X)	17,796	1.5	B-1, B-3
Nonfarm:				
Total or White	-0.000015	3,318	1.2	B-2, B-4
Black	-0.000240	5,774	1.6	B-2, B-4
Spanish origin	(X)	7,815	1.9	B-2, B-4

Table B-5. Parameters and Factors to be Used to Obtain Standard Errors for Each Type of Characteristic—Continued

Type of characteristic	Parameters		f factors	Standard error tables
	a	b		
MONTHLY LEVEL				
Family Income				
Farm	-0.000011	3,167	1.1	B-1, B-3
Nonfarm	-0.000010	1,721	0.9	B-2, B-4
Poverty-Family				
Farm:				
Total or White	0.000085	3,452	(1)	(X)
Black	0.000085	3,452	(1)	(X)
Nonfarm:				
Total or White	0.000076	1,876	(1)	(X)
Black	0.000076	1,876	(1)	(X)
Marital Status				
Farm:				
Total or White	-0.000011	2,556	1.0	B-1, B-3
Black and other races	-0.000097	2,309	1.0	B-1, B-3
Nonfarm:				
Total or White	-0.000010	1,389	0.8	B-2, B-4
Black or other races	-0.000087	1,255	0.8	B-2, B-4
Fertility (Number of Women)				
Farm	-0.000042	3,242	1.1	B-1, B-3
Nonfarm	-0.000031	1,698	0.9	B-2, B-4

(X) Not applicable.

[1]"f" factors are not available for these characteristics. To obtain standard errors for these characteristics, use the "a" and "b" parameters given and formula (2) or (4).

Note: For regional (North Central, Northeast, South, and West) data cross-tabulated with other data, apply the factors 1.02, 0.99, 0.98, 0.84, respectively. For regions North and West combined, use 0.96.

where: U = upper limit of the 68-percent confidence interval
L = Lower limit of the 68-percent confidence interval.

Illustration of the computation of a confidence interval for a median. According to the current definition of a farm, table 13 of this report shows that the 1980 median income for farm families is $15,755. The size, or base, of the distribution from which this median was determined is 1,631,000 families.

1. Using formula (4), the standard error of 50 percent on a base of 1,631,000 is about 2.2 percent.

2. To obtain a 68-percent confidence interval on an estimated median, add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error found in step (1). This yields percent limits of 47.8 and 52.2.

3. Since 30.5 percent of the families had income below $10,000 and 17.4 percent had income between $10,000 and $15,000, the dollar value of the lower limit may be found by linear interpolation to be

$$\$10{,}000 + (\$15{,}000 - \$10{,}000)\frac{47.8 - 30.5}{17.4} = \$14{,}971$$

Since 13.0 percent of the families had income between $15,000 and $20,000, the dollar value of the upper limit may be found by linear interpolation to be about

$$\$15{,}000 + (\$20{,}000 - \$15{,}000)\frac{52.2 - 47.9}{13.0} = \$16{,}654$$

Thus, the 68-percent confidence interval on the median income of farm families is from $14,971 to $16,654.

4. The standard error of the median is, therefore, $\frac{16{,}654 - 14{,}971}{2}$ = $842.00. The 95-percent confidence interval on the median income of farm families is from $14,187 to $17,553, i.e., $14,187 = $15,755 − 2 [$15,755 − $14,971].

Standard error of estimated arithmetic mean. The standard error of an arithmetic mean can be approximated by formula (6) below. Because of the approximations used in developing formula (6), an estimate of the standard error of the mean obtained from that formula will generally underestimate the true standard error. The formula used to estimate the standard error of a mean is

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{\frac{b}{y} s^2} \qquad (6)$$

where y is the size of the base and b is the parameter from table B-5 corresponding to the characteristic of interest. The variance, s^2, is given by formula (7)

$$s^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{c} p_i \bar{x}_i^2 - \bar{x}^2 \qquad (7)$$

where x is the mean of the distribution; c is the number of groups; i indicates a specific group, thus taking on values 1 through c; p_i is the estimated proportion with the characteristic in group i; Z_{i-1} and Z_i are the lower and upper interval boundaries, respectively, for group i; and $\bar{x}_i = \frac{Z_{i-1} + Z_i}{2}$, which is assumed to be the most representative value for the characteristic for persons or families in group i. Group c is open-ended, i.e., no upper interval boundary exists. For this group, the approximate average value is

$$\bar{x}_c = 3/2\ Z_{c-1}$$

Table B-6. Standard Errors of Estimated Fertility Ratios for the Total or Nonfarm Population[1]

Number of women (thousands)	Children ever born or expected per 1,000 women							
	500	1,000	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,500	4,000
250	51	93	129	164	198	234	274	315
500	36	66	92	116	140	166	194	222
750	30	54	74	95	114	135	158	181
1,000	26	47	65	82	99	117	137	158
2,000	18	33	45	58	70	83	97	112
5,000	11	20	29	37	44	52	61	70
10,000	9	15	20	26	31	38	44	50
15,000	7	12	16	21	26	29	35	41
20,000	6	11	15	19	23	27	31	35
25,000	5	9	12	16	20	24	28	32

[1]To derive the standard errors for the farm population, multiply the standard errors obtained above by 1.1.

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